

Coyote Survey Summary 2007

The coyote survey was completed in Cascade Valley and Goodyear Heights Metro Parks in concurrence with the comprehensive park inventories. Approximately one site per 100 acres was surveyed in each park. Four sites were surveyed in Cascade Valley and three in Goodyear Heights.

Sites were surveyed once a week from mid-September through October. Calls of coyote vocalizations were played with five minutes of silence afterwards. If coyotes were heard, the survey was discontinued. If no coyotes were heard, the taped calls were played again, with another listening period of five minutes. This procedure was conducted at each site.

Table 1 illustrates the maximum number of coyotes heard at each site surveyed as well as the estimated population size. Coyotes were documented in both Goodyear Heights and Cascade Valley Metro Parks. Coyotes were heard calling in the area of Alder Pond and the Newton Street field in Goodyear. They were heard in all areas of Cascade Valley including Oxbow, Chuckery, and the Schumacher Valley.

Biologist in northeast Ohio determined that 53% of coyotes in the area will respond to a recording of coyote vocalizations (Cuyahoga Valley report, 1996). Therefore, estimated population size for Goodyear Heights is 7.5 and 22.6 for Cascade Valley Metro Park. While 22 individuals seems like a large estimated number for one park, it is not surprising because Cascade Valley is connected by the Cuyahoga River and is bordered by Sand Run and Gorge Metro Parks creating an extensive green corridor for this predator to thrive.

Table 1. Maximum number of coyotes heard and estimated population size in Metro Parks, Serving Summit County 2007.

2007 Sites	Total Maximum # Heard	Estimated Population Size
Goodyear Heights 1	1	1.88
Goodyear Heights 2	0	0
Goodyear Heights 3	3	5.66
Cascade Valley 1	8	15
Cascade Valley 2	1	1.88
Cascade Valley 3	0	0
Cascade Valley 4	3	5.66

Long-term monitoring sites are surveyed for coyotes every three years. Long-term monitoring sites were surveyed for hawks in 2007. Long-term monitoring sites will be surveyed for coyotes in 2008 (see Table 2). Coyote surveys conducted for park inventory purposes will not be completed in 2008. They will be discontinued until further notice.

Table 2. Owl, Hawk and Coyote Survey Schedule 2007-2009.

Survey	2007 LTM	2007 COMP	2008 LTM	2008 COMP	2009 LTM	2009 COMP
Owl		X		X	X	X
Hawk	X	X		X		X
Coyote		X	X	X		X

Appendix 1

Coyote Howling Survey Protocol

Procedures for Howling Survey

1. Survey period is September 15-October 31 for 6 weeks; carried out not more than once per week (avoid rain, high winds, and other severe weather conditions).
2. Begin survey at 8:00 pm.
3. Approximately one site per 100 acres of park land is surveyed.
4. At each site repeat the following sequence:
 - a. Spread out and let the area quiet down for 5 minutes; no talking; do not slam vehicle doors; lights off.
 - b. Play tape for 30 seconds, turning the speaker 360 degrees during the 30 seconds.
 - c. Listen for 5 minutes.
 - d. Replay tape if no response, listen again for 5 minutes.
 - e. Do not replay tape if you get a response on first play.
 - f. Count individuals (including direction and distance) that call back, completing the data form.